

REMARKS

Claims 3 and 13 have been canceled. Claims 2, 5-10, 12, and 15-20, and amended claims 1, 4, 11, and 14 are in this application.

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,951,031 B2 (Hatano) in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0152360 A1 (Mukai et al.).

Independent claims 1 and 11 have been amended herein so as to respectively include features of dependent claims 3 and 13 along with other features. As a result, and as an example, amended independent claim 1 now recites in part the following:

"the searching unit being operable to discriminate a number sequence subsequent to the predetermined word when the predetermined word is searched, and

the controller being operable to time-extend a termination point of the broadcast time period in response to a value of the discriminated number sequence, in a range not overlapping another set broadcast time period." (Emphasis added.)

It is believed that the present application provides support for the features added to claim 1. With regard thereto and as an example, reference is made to claim 3 and paragraph 0073 of the present application.

It is respectfully submitted that the combination of Hatano and Mukai applied by the Examiner does not appear to disclose all of the above-identified features now recited in claim 1. For example, such applied combination of Hatano and Mukai does not appear to specifically disclose a controller which may "time-extend a termination point of the broadcast time

period in response to a value of the discriminated number sequence, in a range not overlapping another set broadcast time period." (Emphasis added.) More specifically, in explaining the above 103 rejection with regard to claim 3, the Examiner asserted that paragraphs 0044 and 0056 of Mukai disclose the feature of time extending a termination point. In response, it is respectfully submitted that such portions of Mukai do not appear to specifically disclose time extending a termination point "in a range not overlapping another set broadcast time period." Instead, such portions of Mukai appear to disclose (i) detecting an announcement of a time change or extension, and (ii) in response thereto, changing or shifting the preset time. Such procedure does not appear to be the same as that of claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 is distinguishable from the applied combination of Hatano and Mukai.

For reasons similar to those previously described with regard to claim 1, it is also respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 11 is also distinguishable from the applied combination of Hatano and Mukai.

Claims 2, 4-10, 12, and 14-20 are dependent from one of independent claims 1 and 11. Accordingly, it is also respectfully submitted that dependent claims 2, 4-10, 12, and 14-20 are distinguishable from the applied combination of Hatano and Mukai for at least the reasons previously described.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been overcome, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicants' attorney at (908) 654-

5000 in order to overcome any additional rejections and/or objections which the Examiner might have.

If there are any charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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